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Brink's Holdup Opens U.S. Inquiry On Links Among Terrorist Groups

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

A Federal official said yesterday that the investigation of the \$1.6 million Brink's robbery that left three persons dead in Rockland County last week had grown into a major inquiry of radical organizations and terrorists.

Kenneth Walton, director of a joint Federal-New York City Terrorism Task Force, said investigators were looking into possible links among the Underground, the Black Liberation Army, the F.A.L.N. terrorist group seeking independence for Puerto Rico, the Black Panther Party and a clandestine Communist group known as the May 19 Movement.

The groups identified by Mr. Walton as targets of the inquiry are known to be relatively small, with the membership of each limited to no more than a few dozen people.

"We are looking at this as a major racketeering investigation and will look at possible links between all these groups and possibly some foreign organizations," said Mr. Walton. He refused to say what foreign groups he referred to and declined to comment when asked if the Central Intelligence Agency had been drawn into the inquiry.

2 Fugitives Seized in Bronx

Meantime, two fugitive members of the Weather Underground wanted on 1979 warrants stemming from a raid on a bomb factory in Hoboken were held in lieu of \$200,000 bail each yesterday in an arraignment before a United States Magistrate in Manhattan. The two, Jeffrey Carl Jones, 34 years old, and Eleanor Stein Raskin, 35, were arrested at a Bronx apartment late Friday.

Mr. Walton, in a news conference, said that some links between the Weather Underground, the Black Liberation Army and the Black Panthers had been uncovered.

But he said no connections had thus far been definitely established among any of the other radical groups. He added, however, that they appeared to share common purposes, including "the creation of a socialist state" and "an end to the United States Government as we know it."

Even in the heyday of most of the groups identified by Mr. Walton—during the racial turmoil and antiwar protests of the 1960's and early 1970's—the groups, which set off bombs, killed police officers and committed other violent acts in an effort to topple the Establishment, never held broad public support.

Moreover, as support from the left has waned with the passing years, many of the groups have been dormant or nearly inactive, with leaders and members in

jail, in hiding or, having resurfaced after years underground, returned to normal lives.

William N. Kunstler, who has represented many radicals in criminal conspiracy cases, said yesterday that he feared a "public frenzy" over the Rockland County case would prompt the Reagan Administration and some Congressmen to seek a new role for the Central Intelligence Agency in domestic intelligence.

"I'm afraid that this will feed the notion that there's some conspiracy out there," he said in an interview. "I regard the case as an extremely isolated situation, but I think it is going to be blown out of proportion."

Mr. Walton, who is deputy director of the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and James T. Sullivan, the chief of detectives of the New York City Police Department, discussed the inquiry in a news conference at F.B.I. headquarters at 26 Federal Plaza yesterday afternoon.

Pressed for specifics about the nature of possible links among the various radical groups, Mr. Walton said: "There is association and there is communication. That is why we are treating this very much as a racketeering investigation."

Mr. Walton noted that three of the four suspects captured after the three robbery slayings in Rockland last Tuesday—Katherine Boudin, Judith A. Clark and David J. Gilbert—were members of the Weather Underground.

He also noted that one of the gang's getaway cars had been traced through a license plate to an East Orange, N.J., apartment that had been used by the gang and had been rented by Marilyn Jean Buck, a member of the Black Liberation Army who had also rented safehouses for the gang in the Bronx and in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

A Link in Shootout

Still another link was established Friday when a gunman was killed and a former Black Panther, Nathaniel Burns, was captured in Queens after a high-speed chase and shootout that developed when three police detectives spotted their car bearing a license plate linked to the Brink's robbery. The plate had been seen Wednesday on another car parked outside the gang's suspected hideout in Mount Vernon.

Mr. Jones and Miss Raskin, the Weathermen fugitives seized late Friday, were taken into custody at an apartment at 2965 Decatur Avenue in the Bronx, where members of the joint Terrorism Task Force had gone to execute search warrants in connection with the Rockland robbery.

An F.B.I. spokesman later said it was not known if the two had any connection to the Brink's holdup. "At this point, there is no connection," he said. No links were mentioned at the couple's arraignment later.

As Federal agents and the police in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut pressed the search for four to eight members of the gang that escaped from the robbery in Rockland County, the F.B.I. said it had ordered a nationwide hunt for two other radical fugitives whom it characterized as "extremely dangerous."

They were identified as Katherine Ann Power, 32, formerly of Denver, who was wanted for a 1970 bank robbery in Brighton, Mass., and Philadelphia, and Silas Bissell, 39, a Weather Underground member wanted for the 1970 firebombing of a Reserve Officer Training Corps building at the University of Washington in Seattle.